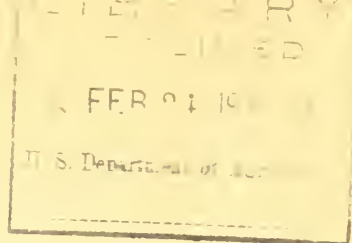


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FOREIGN NEWS ON PRUNES

PRUNE MARKET CONDITIONS ABROAD

Great Britain

Both California and Oregon prunes are meeting with a good demand in the London market at the present time, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Mr. F. A. Motz, fruit specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture in Europe. All sizes of California prunes are being freely distributed in London and there is a good demand for Oregon stock. Forward quotations have been strengthened. The Liverpool position is decidedly firmer than at this time last month and business is good at advanced prices.

Supplies of small sizes are scarce in Liverpool and comparatively dear. Prices there on California prunes are ranging from \$11.28 to \$28.20 per 100 pounds and on Oregon around \$12.58 per 100 pounds at the present time. According to the London Dried Fruit Association prune stocks in London on January 31 amounted to 650 pounds of French, 3,210,000 pounds of American and 193,000 pounds of South African making a total of 1,702 short tons as compared with 1,628 tons on December 31 and 1,369 short tons on January 31, 1929.

Germany

Consul General Kehl at Hamburg reports that the market there was dull in January following a temporary improvement earlier in the month. Prices declined during the second half of January. According to Mr. Steere, American Agricultural Commissioner at Berlin, financial difficulties of the Hamburg dealers are affecting the market at the present time. Many sales have been forced and a continuance of pressing offers are expected during February. The consumer demand is slow owing to the unusually warm weather and keen competition of fresh and canned fruit.

(Over)

United States prune exports

Total exports of prunes from the United States during the three months October-December of 1929 amounted to only 74,514,000 pounds as compared with 142,092,000 pounds in the corresponding period of 1928. The decline is due mainly to reduced exports to France. Shipments to Germany and the United Kingdom also show a considerable decline. The value of the exports during these three months this season has averaged 9 cents a pound as compared with 6 cents a pound during the corresponding three months of the previous season.

Prunes: Exports from the United States, quantity and unit value, October, November and December, 1927-1929

Season:	Exports				Average value per pound			
and :	Total	United	Germany	France	Total	United	Germany	France
month :	Kingdom				Kingdom			
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	:	:	:	:
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>1927</u>								
Oct	: 49,615	: 12,091	: 9,198	: 3,424	: 5.5	: 6.3	: 4.6	: 5.2
Nov	: 60,701	: 8,659	: 20,582	: 10,404	: 5.0	: 5.9	: 4.3	: 5.1
Dec	: 35,097	: 4,280	: 14,077	: 3,332	: 4.8	: 5.5	: 3.8	: 5.2
Total:	145,413	: 25,030	: 43,857	: 17,160	: 5.1	: 6.0	: 4.2	: 5.1
<u>1928</u>								
Oct	: 77,166	: 13,064	: 17,617	: 20,867	: 6.3	: 7.2	: 5.4	: 6.0
Nov	: 37,043	: 5,453	: 9,733	: 9,575	: 5.8	: 4.6	: 5.4	: 5.8
Dec	: 27,923	: 4,404	: 6,713	: 5,534	: 6.6	: 7.6	: 5.5	: 6.2
Total:	142,092	: 22,921	: 36,063	: 35,976	: 6.2	: 6.5	: 5.4	: 6.0
<u>1929</u>								
Oct	: 24,700	: 5,326	: 3,969	: 1,921	: 10.0	: 10.4	: 8.3	: 10.3
Nov	: 30,895	: 7,124	: 12,867	: 888	: 8.9	: 8.8	: 8.5	: 10.4
Dec	: 18,919	: 2,969	: 8,396	: 967	: 8.8	: 9.1	: 8.2	: 10.0
Total:	74,514	: 15,419	: 25,252	: 3,776	: 9.3	: 9.4	: 8.4	: 10.2

Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States.